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MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education of Montenegro

and

Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republic of Srpska

This Memorandum of Cooperation is made between the **Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education of Montenegro** (Agencija za kontrolu i obezbjeđenje kvaliteta visokog obrazovanja), Mihaila Lalica br. 1, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro, hereinafter referred to as **ACQAHE**.

and

Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republic of Srpska (Agencija za akreditaciju visokoškolskih ustanova Republike Srpske), **Kralja Petra I Karadjordjevića 78**, 78 000 Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, hereinafter referred to as **RS HEAA**.

Whereas

ACQAHE is the leading state body for quality assurance in higher education that has the duty to manage the process of evaluation and certification of establishments and study programmes in line with European Standards and Guidelines. ACQAHE was established in November 2017 by the Decision of the Government of Montenegro. However, it started working in its full capacity in September 2018. Taking over the processes of accreditation and reaccreditation, the Agency also assumed the duty to do research related to the system of higher education and to cooperate with international institutions in the field of quality assurance in higher education.

RS HEAA was established in April 2011 by the Republic of Srpska Government with jurisdiction in quality assurance in higher education. Mission of Higher Education Accreditation Agency is continuous build-up and improvement of quality assurance in Republic Srpska higher education system through the implementation of European standards and best practices in the area of quality assurance, as well as establishing quality culture with all relevant stakeholders.

ACQAHE and RS HEAA

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, and both being committed to the spirit of cooperation in higher education area, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

ACQAHE and **RS HEAA** agree through this Memorandum of Cooperation to cooperate for the mutual benefit and to work towards enhancing regulation and quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improving the quality of higher education in both parties. This Memorandum of Cooperation is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party. However, **ACQAHE** and **RS HEAA** agree to work together to implement this Memorandum of Cooperation in good faith.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

(a) Mutual understanding

Work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to quality assurance in higher education, the respective system in place for quality assurance and enhancement in higher education, and the critical matters related to quality and standards in higher education in both countries.

(b) Information exchange

Where appropriate and possible, exchange information and offer professional advice on each other's activities and processes, higher education providers operating in each jurisdiction, and developments in each country's higher education systems.

(c) Staff development

Where appropriate and possible, support the development of staff from two agencies through activities such as staff exchange, observing each other's review processes, and provision of training.

(d) Use of each other's reviewers

Where appropriate and possible, draw on reviewers or other specialists from each other's systems to strengthen the international dimensions of each other's review processes.

(e) Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to mutually agreed projects and activities, for the benefit of both parties, including development of procedures, regulations, trainings, seminars, workshops, supporting student and education staff mobility, and undertaking research on quality related issues.

Final provision

This Memorandum comes into force upon being signed by both parties and shall be valid until terminated with the mutual consent of both parties or at the request of one of the parties with the prior notice of other party not less than 30 days.

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of Memorandum may be altered with consent of both parties.

Signatures of the parties



Dr. Srdja Popovic
Director
ACQAHE





Dr. Biljana Vojvodic
Director
RS HEAA

